



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 1982
TO: Division File
FROM: Robert Munger *KUM*
SUBJECT: 16304538 -- St. Clair County
East St. Louis/Wastex #2
Site Observation

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



315955

I observed the facilities of Wastex Research, Inc. at 2000 Broadway in East St. Louis on December 2, 1982 with Diane Spencer, Field Operations Section, Division of Land Pollution Control and Joe Burroughs of Wastex Research.

Several used tanks have been installed northeast of building six. According to Mr. Burroughs these tanks will be used to store both reclaimed solvents and blended fuel. The tanks are in a pit about 3 feet deep. Pipes into the tanks are partially installed. Some of the tanks have large dents, but there is no evidence that these dents will lead to leaks.

Two other tanks are being stored northwest of the installed tanks. These are also used tanks, and no work has been done towards installing them.

Mr. Burroughs warned me to be careful as we entered building six. I saw several holes in the floor. Some of these holes were about one foot in diameter. When Ms. Spencer pointed out a drum that appeared to be leaking or ~~be~~ in poor condition Mr. Burroughs painted a large pink circle on that drum. There were two of these drums in building six. Due to the method of storage it is not possible to inspect each drum. Other drums may have been in poor condition also. The mixer to be used to redissolve solids for both the fuel blending program and the proposed solvent recovery program (stripper stills) is in building six. This mixer was part of the glass factory operations. Two "stripper stills" have been brought into building six. They have been set up right, but no pipes have been connected. A solvent odor was present in building six.

In building 17C are some used transformers. Mr. Burroughs said that Wastex plans to reclaim the cooling fluid from these transformers for use as a heat transfer fluid in asphalt manufacture.



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Drums in several buildings on the southwest side of the site are standing in either leaked waste or accumulated stormwater.

On the southwest side of the site are four tanks which were originally used to store dry materials used in glass manufacture. (G1, G2, G3, G4 on Drawing P5) Mr. Burroughs stated Wastex was upgrading these tanks so they could be used for storage of aqueous materials. Work on these tanks was in progress during the observation. Parts of the area underneath the tank were illuminated by the bright blue light characteristic of welding and loud motor made conversation impossible.

The proposed PCB storage area is currently empty. The floors are cracked in several places and stormwater has accumulated on the floor in places. The existing concrete curb is cracked and in places completely deteriorated.

The settling pond proposed for the acid/base neutralization program is filled with dirt, bricks, and water. The wall around it has been knocked down.

Light fixtures are present in some of the buildings, but are not functional. Light is provided from windows, most of which are broken. We did not inspect some of the buildings because light, natural or artificial, was only available in the areas adjacent to the doors where some drums were stored.

RLM:rd6015C/10-11

cc: Southern Region